THE Present Diſpoſition OF ENGLAND CONSIDERED.

ALL thinking men are ſufficiently imploy'd with the conſideration of the preſent poſture of Affairs in *Europe*, which are now come to ſuch a Criſis, that it muſt be acknowledged all former apprehenſions of danger from the Greatneſs of *Spain*, and the Houſe of *Auſtria*, or from the growing Power of *France*, when the *French* King marched in perſon to *Utrecht*, and had almoſt poſſeſt himſelf of the ſeven Provinces, are in no degree equal to the preſent melancholy Conjuncture. The Union of *France* and *Spain* (for ſo I muſt call it) hath a very diſmal aſpect, and tends to the ruin of *England*, *Holland*, and of the Empire too, and of the whole Proteſtant Intereſt. The Calamity is like to be ſo univerſal, that all *Europe* ought to be alarm'd, and exert their Wiſdom and Courage to divert the Blow, and ſhelter themſelves from it, as from a Common Deſtruction.

Tho the Emperor ſeems to be more nearly concerned for the Intereſt of his Family, who are depriv'd of a Succeſſion they had reaſon to hope for; yet this Union of Power, by the ſituation of their Dominions, the concern of Navigation, and the Intereſt of Trade, and Commerce, doth more immediately affect *England* and *Holland*,

who perhaps may be the first that will fall under the sad effects of this surprising Conjunction.

The Press, both here and abroad, affords us every day Reflections upon these things; and those that write for the Liberty of *Europe*, generally agree in the same Topicks, that 'tis the Interest of *England* to enter into more strict Alliances than ever with the Emperor, the *Dutch*, &c. for the common safety of Christendom, and to chastise *France* for the Treachery of its Conduct, and bring the *Spaniards* to repent of their hasty Submission. The necessity of this is very obvious: But then a thinking man will at the same time revolve more distinctly in his mind the posture of Affairs, Domestick as well as Foreign, that the greatest things move by Springs unseen, and that a Wise man in erecting a Fabrick, not only considers the Cost, but also the Materials, what Instrumens are proper to carry on the Building, and what Rubbish is to be removed.

We may believe the Emperor to be in good earnest; yet the Power of his Arms abroad will be much weakened, unless at home he give Tranquillity to the Protestants in *Hungary* and in other parts of his Dominions, and also calm the present Differences amongst the Princes of the Empire: But above all his Imperial Majesty must exclude the Jesuited Zealots from having any influence in his Councils; they look on the *French* King as the Champion of their Cause, and are so bigotted to the Church, that they'l now more than ever favour the Interests and Designs of *France*.

The *Dutch* understand their own Interest so well, and are so apprehensive of their danger, that there's no room to doubt they'l concur in every thing that may secure them from the Desolation that is at hand. But as their Fears are very great, so their Humours vary, and their Apprehensions are very much divided. The *Lovestein* Party, and others amongst them, are for temporizing with *France*, and gaining time; and their Maxim is, That Princes must die, but Commonwealths are permanent; and if they can but weather the Storm till this King of *France* is in his Grave, they think themselves out of danger. This Humour of theirs is very much influenced by the opinion they have of us. In the last Reigns we had lost all Credit amongst them; and they were more afraid of the Treachery of *England*, than of the Arms of *France*: They look'd upon our Court to be the Nursery of Falthood, and treated our Ministry with the utmost diffidence, and always suspected our Integrity. It was this unsteddiness

ſteddineſs at Court that made *De Wit* tell Sir *William Temple*, That ſince Queen *Elizabeth*'s time there hath been a perpetual Fluctuation in the Conduct of *England*, that there was no taking meaſures with them for two years together. And *Don Pedro de Ronquillos* (who underſtood *England* the beſt of any foreign Miniſter of his time) uſed to ſay, That the Air at *Whitehal*, of all Worldly things, was the moſt variable. Since his Majeſty's happy acceſſion to the Crown, the States by their conduct hitherto have ſhewn that in this reſpect their Sentiments are changed. Their good opinion in this point we ought now to preſerve for our own ſakes as well as theirs; for if they find us under the direction of a Miniſtry bred up in the late Reigns, 'twill ſhock them beyond meaſure. The moſt jealous part of their Government is the City of *Amſterdam*, whoſe Power is ſo great, that it may be ſaid they have the Purſe in their hands. The uncertainty of *England* hath always given that City a Biaſs towards *France*. The old *Engliſh* Miniſtry is to them an Abomination, and they'd ſooner incline to put the Marſhal *de Boufflers* at the head of their Troops, and the Marquiſs *de Torcy* to preſide in their Aſſemblies, than willingly diſcover the more intimate Secrets of their Government, or truſt the movement of their Affairs at a time of this importance, to any of the Emiſſaries of the two laſt Kings. No Argument can (nor indeed ought to) prevail on them to enter into confidence, and join Councils with thoſe who at their firſt ſetting up for Stateſmen, liſted themſelves in the Conſpiracy then on foot for the deſtruction of the United Provinces, which was to be the Prologue to the ruin of the Proteſtant Intereſt, and the Liberty of Mankind.

This haſty View of the domeſtick State in the Empire and *Holland*, ſmooths the way for us to conſider how we ſtand at home, what diſpoſition we are in, and how prepared to ſecure our ſelves, or aſſiſt our Neighbours. This will beſt appear by looking back to the Motives of this Revolution. Thoſe firſt ſolid Principles that gave birth to a Government, ought to be preſerved in the Adminiſtration of it; for that ſecures the Vitals, and ſends Life and Vigour to the remoter Parts.

His Majeſty, in his Declaration from the *Hague* the 10*th* of *October* 1688. tells us, *That thoſe evil Counſellors that had then Credit with K.* James, *had overturned the Laws, Liberties and Religion of the Realm, and ſubjected all things to an Arbitrary Power.* And therein enumerates the villanous Advice and Practice they were guilty

of, *not only by ſecret and indirect ways, but in an open and undiſguiſed manner*; *that the Affairs of the Church were put into the hands of Perſons who accepted a Commiſſion manifeſtly illegal, and executed it contrary to Law*; *and that one of their chief Members had abjur'd the Proteſtant Religion, and declared himſelf a Papiſt*; *that the ſame Evil Counſellors took the ſame methods with relation to Civil Affairs, and particularly procured the Parliament to be diſſolved, when they could not prevail with the Members to comply with their wicked Deſigns.* And therefore the Declaration tells us, That his Majeſty *came over with a Force ſufficient to defend himſelf from the Violence of thoſe evil Counſellors.* This Declaration was ſeconded by the Reſolutions of the States General the 28*th* day of the ſame Month, who thereby declare they aſſiſted his Majeſty, *becauſe K.* James *by ill Counſel, and guided by his Miniſters, attempted to ſubvert the fundamental Laws and Religion of the Nation*; *and that being in a ſtrict Alliance with the* French *King, if he ſhould obtain an Arbitrary Power over the People, thoſe two Kings would then endeavour to ruin* Holland *as well as* England, *out of Intereſt of State, and hatred to the Proteſtant Religion.* The States were ſo hearty and zealous, that they not only came to this brave Reſolution, but ordered Monſieur *Roſeboom* their Agent to deliver the ſame to all the foreign Miniſters then reſiding at the *Hague.* From which we may obſerve, that both the King and the States levelled their Force directly againſt the Miniſtry, who were then tearing up the Government by the Roots, and thought the firſt ſtep to our Deliverance was to blaſt their Intereſt and Deſigns, that (as the Declaration ſays) *there might be no danger of the Nation's falling at any time hereafter under Arbitrary Government.* The Lords and Commons in the Convention were of the ſame opinion with the King and Eſtates, and therefore in their Declaration of Rights and Liberties preſented to the King and Queen the 13*th* of *February* following, they delare that K. *James by the aſſiſtance of evil Counſellors and Miniſters imployed by him, did endeavour to ſubvert the Proteſtant Religion, and the Laws and Liberties of the Kingdom.* By all which it is manifeſt, that one of the principal motives which inclined his Majeſty to aſſiſt us in this happy change, was to traverſe the wicked Advice and Counſel of the Miniſters of the late Reigns, and that the ſame Reaſon governed the States in their approbation of the Deſign, and was alſo one of the firſt conſiderations that moved the Lords and Commons in the Settlement of the Crown; for indeed nothing

is ſo dreadful to a Nation, as to ſee their ruin managed ſilently in the Cabinet: the poiſon of evil Counſel ſhed deliberately upon a People, is moſt difficult to be expelled. All Ages give us inſtances of Princes betrayed, and Kingdoms overturned by the Craft and Falſhood of ill Miniſters, when they have ever gained Credit, to have the bold Advice they give behind the Curtain, put in execution upon the People. This ſtate we were arrived to in the late Reign, and nothing, humanly ſpeaking, but his Majeſty's glorious Expedition could have ſaved us from the wretched Condition we were brought into, by the execrable Politicks of the Miniſtry then in power.

So that the deſign of this Revolution being to ſecure our Laws and Religion againſt the Counſel and Intrigues of ill Men, the Foundation of it is ſolid, and built upon Juſtice and Truth; and therefore Men of Engliſh Principles, and of Affection to this Government, out of Judgment and Conſcience, are the only Inſtruments proper to ſerve the Crown at all times under this Settlement, but more eſpecially in times of Difficulty. The Miniſtry of ſuch Men will render the King victorious in time of War, and happy in time of Peace. Such a Miniſtry will repoſe the Minds of the People, will raiſe the Spirits of our Allies, mortify our Enemies, and make the fatigues of the Government, and the toils of War to his Majeſty not only ſupportable, but eaſy. And 'tis no ſmall Felicity for us to conſider, that the Experience of this Revolution hath furniſhed his Majeſty with ſuch marks of Diſtinction, that he can hardly err in the Choice of ſuch as are ſincere to his Affairs, and may be relied on at all hazards to be ſteddy to his Intereſt, jealous of his Honour, and affectionate to his Perſon. And here it may not be improper to be more particular in the Character of the Perſons fit to be choſe for ſuch a Purpoſe. If we but turn back, we may ſee immediately who appeared moſt zealous in the Convention for the ſettlement of the Crown, that by the ſtrength of their Reaſon, and juſtice of the Cauſe, ſubdued the Regency, and put the Crown on the King's Head, and who in the next Parliament recognized his Majeſty in the moſt emphatical Terms; and who thoſe were that oppoſed both the Settlement and Recognition, and were ſolely treacherous in their Oppoſition, that they had the Confidence, with a *French* Air, to pretend they thought it for his Majeſty's Intereſt, to let the matter ſleep, and not incourage

courage the Recognition. We may likewiſe eaſily remember, who thoſe Men were, that on all Occaſions declared, and avowed his Majeſty to be rightful and lawful King; that maintained his Title, and were ready to juſtify it with their Lives, and who would never ſuffer it with Patience to be blown upon by the corrupt breath of any of the State-Impoſtors, and baffled all the ſilly Arguments which the Chits of the late Reigns, and their Pupils were capable to rally up on that Subject; tho it muſt be own'd they took a great deal of Pains on this head, and exerted the very Eſſence of their Spleen and Reſentments, in oppoſing ſo fundamental a Truth.

Then let us conſider, who ſupplied the King during the courſe of the late War, who fought his Battels at home, which imported his Affairs more than all his Battels abroad, who raiſed vaſt Sums, created Funds, ſtudied Expedients, and ſtretched the very ſinews of the Nation to ſupport his Majeſty, and ſecure the Government from the Violence of his open Enemies, and the Treaſon of his Domeſtick Foes.

Who were thoſe that appeared moſt affectionate, and were moſt tenderly touched upon the diſcovery of the Plot in 1695, who promoted the Aſſociation, and other good Laws that then paſſed, and that were for going into the examination of it without reſerve; who were thoſe that preſt to ſave *Charnock*, becauſe he knew all, and offered to diſcover; and who thoſe were that ſolicited without ceaſing, to get him hanged, that they might ſtop his Mouth: who were thoſe that were Advocates for all the Jacobite-Traytors, and that ſtifled the Diſcovery, and procured the Names of thoſe to be concealed that were concerned in it, or that had got Pardons, or made Terms with King *James*; by which abominable practice all future Plots are in a manner protected from being diſcovered, and ill Men incouraged to act againſt the Government without fear. And if the Enemies of our Peace may always go on conſpiring, without enquiry, and ſtill find themſelves ſecure, altho it be diſcovered; and if Crimes of this Nature muſt grow up to an impunity, there will quickly be an end of all Law and Government.

Who were thoſe that heartily entered into the voluntary Aſſociation, and never yet failed of giving ſincere marks of their Loyalty to the King, and of a true regard to his Intereſt: and who thoſe were that confidently refuſed to join in that common Security when the

the *French* were at *Calais*, and only wanted a Wind to cut our Throats; and that were not only contented to ſhew their perſonal Averſion to our preſent Security and Settlement, but uſed their Rhetorick and Intereſt to debauch others from their Duty to their Prince, and their Love to their Country. One inſtance of it we cannot omit: When the Houſe of Commons had appointed a day on purpoſe for ſigning the voluntary Aſſociation, the Avenues to the Houſe were that Morning beſet, and ſeveral of the Members not left to the freedom of their own Wills; but the little Arguments, and Addreſs of the Party made uſe of to diſſuade them from ſigning the Aſſociation, and one eloquent Gentleman amongſt them had ſtudied the point for this occaſion, and framed an Opinion to ſtartle the more unwary: and here 'twill be no digreſſion, to render his Poſition in the words he had dreſt it in. *By the Statute of* H. 7. *the Subjects are indemnified in taking an Oath to, or fighting for a King* de facto; *but the Aſſociation is not within the Statute, but an Overt-act of Treaſon againſt the King* de jure, *and puniſhable as ſuch, when he ſhall be reſtored.* This Opinion had ſome effect on Gentlemen that had not Law enough to perceive the Nonſenſe of it: tho perhaps this might paſs for a Maxim in Law, if we were under the Diſcipline of the laſt Reigns, when *Scribere* was *Agere*, and Thinking was Treaſon.

Who were thoſe that endeavoured to diſguiſe the *Lancaſhire* Plot, and would have turned it on the Government, had not the truth of it been confirm'd in the detection of the general Conſpiracy. There are ſome Men that have appeared ſo audacious in all theſe inſtances, that one would think they had either no Brains, or no Foreheads. They treat the King with the Character of Uſurper and Tyrant: 'tis no matter what Opinion they have of his Title, but they bely their own Experience to call him Tyrant. 'Tis his mild Reign hath made them ſo inſolent: and had but the ordinary courſe of Juſtice been let looſe amongſt them, they had not been ſo conſiderable either in Court or Country, and his Majeſty would have had leſs Trouble, and been more ſafe. When the grand Plot was diſcovered, they entertained us very remarkably; but one time they told us, that now all was diſcovered, and the Government was ſafe; at other times they very gravely pretended, that ſo many were ingaged in it, that 'twas adviſable to connive, and not proſecute it any farther. I am ſure, if the Conſpiracy was ſo formidable, that 'twas dangerous to enquire into it, 'twas much more dangerous to let it alone:

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the Journymen Plotters were executed, that the Principals might escape; and what reason there was to spare so infamous a Generation, and what hopes we can conceive of their Repentance and Behaviour for the future, may be determined by this one Consideration, That after the attempt at *la Hogue*, and other resented Treasons since this Revolution, his Majesty was graciously pleased the 3*d* day of *May* 1695. to give the Royal Assent to the last Act of Indempnity; and but three days after, as appears by the Evidence, they had a solemn meeting to consider how to murder him, and destroy us.

I don't aggravate this matter out of a desire of Punishment or Blood, if we can be safe without it: But I would not have his Majesty's Speech to both Houses, *Feb.*24. 1695. so soon forgot, in which he was pleased to observe to us, That by the good Providence of God, and our own prudent Endeavours, the Discovery of the Plot might be so improved, *as to become a sufficient warning to us to provide for our Security against the pernicious Practices and Attempts of our Enemies.* And I would fain have the World rightly informed, that they may distinguish the true Patriots of *England* from the false ones; and if we have any *French* Nobility or Gentry amongst us, let us shew them to the People, that they may become the Scorn and the Contempt of Mankind. It is not impossible but we may have a *Porto Carero* in *England* too, that may one time or other deliver us up to *France*, as he has done *Spain*, and his State-Craft be as pernicious to us, as the others Priest-Craft has been to them.

Nothing in nature can more contribute to undo us by such a single Hand, than to be supine and indifferent, as we have been hitherto, when Plots against the King's Life, and other publick Treasons have been hatched, and the Discovery managed with a cold Prosecution, as if the Spirits of the Government were frozen up: These things don't happen by accident, there must be secret springs to dispose this matter, but Mysteries will be revealed; one Benefit still remains to us, that these are fresh Treasons, and not yet pardoned; and whoever dares advise another Act of Indempnity, till our Security is more visible, must do it at the peril of his Head.

After these more publick Marks of affection to the King and Kingdom, by which men at this time ought to be distinguished, we may come to other Particulars, which will discover to us what sort of Men have been most useful in their Generation, and shewed the most application and skill in supporting the Government since this Revolution,

tion, in giving credit to our Affairs, and ſupplying our Wants in all Emergencies: We may conſider what ſort of Men in the City, and of what Principles, were the moſt liberal and hearty in their Loans to his Majeſty upon every occaſion. To this add thoſe that projected and wiſely eſtabliſhed the Bank of *England*; a Deſign ſo happy, and ſo ſeaſonable, that the naming of it is ſufficient to bring to our remembrance of what uſe it was to the Government: it was at one time the very prop of our Affairs, and for that reaſon all the Force and Zeal of the Party was collected to blow it up, or to ſap the Foundation on which it ſtood.

The next thing that occurs, is, To conſider the miſerable Condition we were reduced to by the Clipt Mony, and riſe of Guineas; no Story can furniſh us with ſo diſmal an Example: Here our Enemies thought they had us ſafe, and they judg'd pretty right; for if the currency of the Clipt Mony, and the monſtrous bulk of Guineas had not been overcome, they had been ſure of our necks under their feet. Why then conſider who were the Perſons that attempted this ſtupendous Work, who were thoſe that were for *the recoining of the Clipt Mony, according to the eſtabliſhed Standard of the* Mint, *both as to the weight and fineneſs*, and for bringing down Guineas to their intrinſick value.

Then conſider, when we were under all theſe ſevere Difficulties, when we wanted Money to pay the Army and the Fleet, all Trade was at a ſtand, and we had not Mony to go to Market, who were thoſe that promoted that admirable Expedient of the *Exchequer*-Bills, which ſupply'd our wants whilſt our Silver was in the *Mint*, and raiſed a new Species amongſt us, and came as ſeaſonable as the Manna in the Wilderneſs: thoſe worthy Patriots that toiled under theſe Extremities, and endured the heat of the day, ought to have the freſco of it too; but none of the *marked Cards* of the late Reigns, or their Adherents, had any hand in theſe things: to ſave a Nation, and to ſupply the People, to redreſs their Grievances, and make them eaſy, is what they never underſtood. Theſe Pioneers of State are only fit to break down Incloſures, and prepare a rout for the march of Arbitrary Power.

The Age is ſo polluted, that we ought likewiſe to conſider who are thoſe that appear to have the cleaneſt hands from Bribery and Corruption: we may content our ſelves with that one inſtance of the *Old Eaſt-India* Company, in 94, and 95. All the Proceedings in that

matter are upon the Journals of Parliament, and ſufficiently known. I'll only obſerve that in that dark Buſineſs, their own Committee have reported, that on the 31*ſt* of *October* 1694. the ballance of their Caſh-book was, 124249 *l.* 15 *s.* 10 *d.* which their Caſhier a little time after could give no account of, but in a few Notes. Beſides this there were contracts for Stock to the value of 67383 *l.* 19 *s.* 6 *d.* which was Stock-job'd up and down, and after very great loſs again transferred to the Company's account; and that alſo upon the Company's Account of Charges General, there was 103165 *l.* 15 *s.* 5 *d.* paid out of Caſh in ſix years, beginning in 1688, of which the Committee were never able to obtain any further Account, than that the ſame was paid from time to time *for ſpecial Service.* Is it not ſurpriſing to find the diſpoſal of ſuch great Sums remain a Secret to this day? Now conſider who were thoſe that endeavoured to defeat this horrid Corruption, and that have battered the Old Company for their Treachery to the Publick; and who are thoſe that were juſtly ſuſpected to be concerned in it, that have been perfumed with the Spices of the Old Company, or ſeaſoned with their Salt Peter, and have always advocated for them. A Society of Men that have ſuch vaſt Sums at their diſpoſal, and will diſtribute it to ill Purpoſes, may endanger the Conſtitution, and they are doubly Criminal; for they that will give Bribes, will take them, they only throw Water into the Pump that the Springs may riſe the faſter. The two Houſes of Parliament were juſtly alarm'd at this matter, and ſhewed their Reſentments of it as far as Evidence did guide them: the King himſelf expreſt his Royal Diſpleaſure againſt the Company, and their corrupt Practices in a remarkable Exception in the laſt Act of Indempnity, which you'l find in theſe words: *Alſo except out of this preſent Act all Offences in giving or promiſing, or in receiving or taking, or in accepting of any promiſe of any Sum of Money, or other Gift, Reward, or Gratuity, for the procuring, or aſſiſting in procuring of a new Charter, or Charter of Reſtitution to the* East-India *Company, or a Charter for the regulating of the ſaid Company, or in order to the obtaining or promoting an Act of Parliament for confirming the* East-India *Company:* Or in order *to prevent or obſtruct the paſſing of one Act of Parliament for erecting, or for ſettling a new* East-India *Company, or in refuſing to give evidence, or declare their knowledg touching any of the ſaid Offences, having been thereunto lawfully required.*

Precedents of this nature ſpread like an Infection, and diſpoſe Mens Minds to conſult their own private advantage, when the Publick ſhould

ſhould only be conſidered: and from the higheſt Places of Truſt to the meaneſt Imployments, by ſuch pernicious Examples Men are led into Temptation, to take and give Bribes till the Traffick is become univerſal, and then they diſcard all fear, becauſe they think in the multitude of Criminals there is ſafety. Unhappy is a Nation when arrived to this pitch of Corruption; 'tis more fatal than War, Peſtilence or Famine: but 'tis hoped the Wiſdom of the Nation will in time check the Progreſs of this Malignity; 'tis already ſo inveterate, that we ſeem to want Commiſſioners of Enquiry, eſtabliſhed by Parliament, with power to ſend for Perſons, Papers and Records, and to examine whomſoever they think fit upon Oath; ſome ſuch Authothority would be much more neceſſary to the Government than the Commiſſioners of Accounts.

Theſe ſhort Hints may eaſily diſtinguiſh Mankind, and demonſtrate who are Perſons of Integrity to the Government, and who are not. The firſt care for the Publick ought to be the prudent choice of publick Miniſters and Officers, upon which the very Being of a Nation depends: and therefore according to the Hands we are managed by, we may beſt judg what diſpoſition we are in at home, and how prepared to ſecure our ſelves and aſſiſt our Neighbours. If the Miniſters and Agents of the laſt Reign, or any of thoſe that in this Reign have made Terms with *France* or King *James*, or got Pardons to ſecure them in all Events, gain a Credit at Court; it will make us weak and impotent at home, and expoſe all our Affairs to the attempts of our Enemies, who by this means will penetrate into our Councils, and be able to ſubvert the moſt prudent meaſures that we can poſſibly take to defend our ſelves and offend them: For their hatred to *England*, and their foreign Engagements will make them ſedulous to deſtroy us; and Malice is always more vigilant than Friendſhip. Beſides, all thoſe that promote or eſpouſe ſuch a Miniſtry, oppoſe his Majeſty's ſolemn Reſolutions expreſt in his Declaration, and maliciouſly endeavour to elude his Royal Ingagement, when his Majeſty was graciouſly pleaſed to declare to the Houſe of Commons upon their preſenting the Voluntary Aſſociation, *That as they had freely aſſociated themſelves for the common Safety, he did heartily enter into the ſame Aſſociation, and would be always ready with them and the reſt of his good Subjects, to venture his Life againſt all who ſhall endeavour to ſubvert the Religion, Laws and Liberties of* England. For ſuch a ſet of Men are mortal Foes to theſe Princely Inclinations, and will rather

hurry the Government from one raſh Act to another, till they have ſet the whole on fire. We muſt never expect Peace or Security from thoſe who aſſiſted *France* and *Rome* all they could in the late Reigns, to ruin our Peace for ever; they have always been the Fomenters of Diſcord, and think only to make themſelves uſeful by perplexing our Affairs; their Inclinations and Deſigns are ſo tranſparent, that dulneſs it ſelf may ſee through it. If *Moſes* had took *Egyptian* Counſellors to adviſe with for the deliverance of *Iſrael*, they had perhaps been in bondage to this day; and tho *Achitophel* had never hang'd himſelf, 'tis not to be imagined that good King *David* would have made him a Privy-Counſellor.

This nice Conjuncture, and the variety of Circumſtances it affords us both at home and abroad, and the conſideration of our own Safety in particular, and that of all *Europe* in general, requires the beſt diſpoſition poſſible amongſt our ſelves, and a temper of Union and mutual Confidence, that nothing may be done to give umbrage to an honeſt and well meaning People, or create any diſtruſt in them to hinder the free Scope of their generous Inclinations, which have always tended to aſſiſt his Majeſty to the utmoſt. This happy State is neceſſary to animate our Affairs, and ſtrengthen our Conſtitution, that our inward Vigour may be ſufficient to ſupply any Land or Naval Force that may be expedient on this occaſion; that whether his Majeſty may be obliged to an open Rupture, or to enter into any Treaty with *France* and *Spain* in conjunction with his Allies to ſecure the Peace of *Chriſtendom*, he may execute it with Power, and be free from all the clogs of Diffidence and Jealouſie at home. And ſuch a Condition will add weight to Council and Actions either in Peace or War: for when a Government is ſecured and ſtrong within it ſelf, 'tis not ſo liable to the Impreſſions of an Enemy, or the accidents of War; and without this inward quality it may be ſaid to have the Form without the Power. In order to which, the Intention of our preſent Settlement ought to be purſued in all the Adminiſtrations of it, and the meaſures we fall into adjuſted to this end, that the Proceedings of the Publick may be adequate to the excellent deſign of the Revolution, which can never be accompliſhed but by the ſteddy Progreſs of Affairs, intruſted in the hands of Men of Fidelity to the Government, out of Principle as well as Intereſt, without ſhifting from ſide to ſide, like a ſick Man in a Fever. The People will think themſelves ſafe, when they ſee matters in ſuch a poſture, and the

the conſtant Management of ſuch a Council; and when by this means they grow eaſie and ſecure, all repining will be laid aſide, and they'l chearfully aſſiſt whenever the Government wants the aid either of their Perſons or their Purſes; and whoever adviſes other methods, either do not underſtand *England*, or don't love it, and will at the long-run be found to be blind Guides, and mere Empericks in Policy; or what is worſe, they will appear to have no friendſhip for the King's Intereſt, and to carry on purpoſes deſtructive to the Nation.

This Propoſition may be explained to us in that one Inſtance of the late Lord Chancellor. The King and People were equally happy in the Juſtice, Integrity, and excellent Abilities of that Noble Lord: his Affection to the King, his zeal for the Publick, and his regard to the Conſtitution, were qualities that had filled his very Soul, and entred the *Compoſitum* of his Being; and yet this great Man was removed from the King's Ear, and Prince and People deprived of his aſſiſtance, at the only time when he might have been moſt uſeful; the Smiles that were ſeen at St. *Germains* on this change, and the delight our Adverſaries took in it, are apparent Marks that this jog to the Nation was managed by the dark Intrigues of the old Enemies of our Peace, tho 'tis not difficult to trace it up to the Contrivers. It is well known, if that Noble Lord had left the great Seal behind him at *Hampton-Court*, they had prepared for us an *Iriſh* Succeſſor, whoſe Phiz and Conſcience has no ſimily but that of his Patrons. Time, the Mother of Truth, will convince us that the removal of this Noble Lord was by the Advice and Counſel of falſe Friends, who have no mind to ſee *England* in ſuch a good diſpoſition, that it may be a Terror to our Enemies, and the Support and Comfort of our Allies: but this matter is now become ſo much the Cauſe of the Commons of *England*, who vindicated that Noble Lord by a loud Majority, that it muſt be referred to their Animadverſions.

When the Rubbiſh of the two late Reigns is removed, and the Kingdom rightly diſpoſed by the choice of a good Miniſtry, all the parts of the Government will be cheriſhed by the florid humour of the People, which will reſult from their ſatisfaction in this Point: but above all we may thereby promiſe our ſelves the more ſecurity to his Majeſty's Royal Perſon, on whoſe Life under God is our dependance; 'tis the length of his Days muſt eſtabliſh our Proſperity, and ſave us from Gun-powder and Blood; 'tis this Sacred Life all good Men pray for: This ought to be our daily Thought, and

our

our peculiar Care; and this Conſideration alone comprehends all others, and calls for our unwearied Vigilance to ſee the King's ſafety no more put to hazard, but to wiſh and endeavour that his Royal Perſon may be ſurrounded with Men of unqueſtioned Loyalty, that love and honour him for his own ſake, and that pay a due Veneration to his Princely Virtues, that are for eſtabliſhing his Crown in Peace, and for promoting the Luſtre and Glory of his Reign, that under his auſpicious Government we may lay the Foundation of a laſting Proſperity to poor *England* for Ages to come. If we conſider how often his Majeſty's Life hath been in danger, and what a ſhort length our Succeſſion is reduced to, with what concern and anxiety of Mind muſt it poſſeſs us, having always reaſon to apprehend the practices of our implacable Enemies? their malice is in perpetual motion, either in action or in conſult, poiſoning the World with the Helliſh opinions they ſhed againſt the Government; their Libel of laſt Summer under the name of *Charnock*'s Letter, is the moſt execrable Paper that ever ſaw the Light; the poor Duke of *Glouceſter* was hardly cold in his Grave, when this Monſter came wet out of the Preſs; it impudently acknowledgeth all the late Plot, and defends the intended Aſſaſſination as a thing lawful, neceſſary, and juſt. The Author tells us, the Publication of it was reſerved to *a proper ſeaſon*: as ſoon as the dear young Prince was dead, and thereby one of the Branches of our Settlement cut off, that it ſeems was the *proper ſeaſon* to ſpread this Doctrine of Devils, and to raiſe the infernal Spirit of the Party to murder the beſt of Kings. He likewiſe tells us, *That ſuch offers formerly made, had always been rejected by King* James: but (ſays he in the laſt Leaf) *it may be reaſonably preſumed that what his Majeſty (King* James) *had for ſome reaſons rejected, he might not be diſpleaſed at the doing of it another time, when his own and the publick good neceſſarily require it.* We were good husbands in the King's Abſence, and only offered a Gratuity of one hundred Pounds for the Author, and the ſame for the Printer; but we hope the Parliament, that commands the Purſe, will be more liberal on this occaſion, and propoſe a Reward that may tempt ſome of the Villains to turn honeſt, and diſcover the accurſed Hand from whence it came; for the detection of it ought to be followed to the utmoſt degree, and means uſed to find it out, tho it were printed in the Moon.

We can never be too jealous of the King's Safety; and every thing we do for the Security of his Royal Perſon, will give new Life and Credit

Credit to our Affairs, and add to the good Diſpoſition we ought to have at this time for the Benefit of the Nation. This is that which ſhould imploy all our Activity and Zeal, and make us contend earneſtly to ſee all Places of Truſt executed by Men whoſe Hearts are entirely devoted to the Service of his Majeſty, and that will ſhake off all Commerce with the old abdicated Miniſtry.

We might mention another very great Point, that is alſo neceſſary to render our Condition at home firm and laſting, and that is, to make ſome further advance in the Settlement of the Crown, and to extend the Proteſtant Succeſſion before it be too late; which will extremely contribute to the Security of the King's Perſon, and put us out of the reach of our Popiſh foreign Pretenders, whoſe hopes mightily revive with Expectation that our Settlement will be ſpent, and then they'l take care to ſupply it for us, to the eternal loſs of our Conſtitution, and of all our Enjoyments. But this weighty Point muſt be entirely left to the Wiſdom of the King and Parliament, who are only fit to determine what is proper to be done in this matter for the Support and Honour of the Crown, and for the Intereſt of the People.

THE END.

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